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ABSTRACT

The Volusia County (Florida) Single Parents Program was developed to identify single parents who are potential dropouts because of a lack of financial support for day care and to provide them with approved day care services. The program also features (1) cooperation between teachers and school guidance counselors to identify and counsel pregnant and parent teens for the purpose of getting them into a vocational program and dissuading them from dropping out; (2) provision of career awareness information and assessment services; (3) provision of financial support for child care; and (4) instruction in such subjects as health, family living and parenting, and child guidance and care. Thirty-four teen parents are currently enrolled in the program, and 28 are on the program's waiting list. (This report contains a list of program admission criteria, a discussion of coordinator functions, information on the day care offered through the project, a program application form, program eligibility criteria, various correspondence directed to prospective program participants and forms to be completed by students entering the program, a list of facts on teen pregnancy and teen parents, a list of consequences of teenage pregnancy, and observations pertaining to the need for the program and its outcomes.) (MN)

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FINAL REPORT

SINGLE PARENTS OR HOMEMAKERS
PROJECT NO. DVE 640-15570-7-1NO1
FROM 1986 TO 1987

VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE PARENS PROGRAM (VCSPP)
VOLUSIA COUNTY VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 1910
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA 32014

IRIS A. HELVESTON
PROJECT DIRECTOR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
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VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE PARENTS PROGRAM
(VCSPP)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Vocational Education expresses its appreciation to those who contributed to the Volusia County Single Parents Pogram.

Assistance of Day Care Providers	Jo Shepherd,Community Coordinator, United Child Care, Inc. Ormond Beach, Florida
Health and Teen Referrals	Barbara Gamble, Health Education, Daytona Beach, Florida
Research Material and Conferences	Dr. Lucy Guglielmino, Research Director, Florida Atlantic University
Materials and Teen Parent Information	Helen Scott, Director March of Dimes, Daytona Beach, Florida
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Information and Program Materials	Melinda Klan, HRS, Daytona Beach, Florida
Guidelines and Teen Parent Reports	Judy Peterson, Executive Director, BETA, Orlando, Florida
Legislature Material and Information	Linda Merrell, Coordinator, Governor's Constituency for Children Daytona Beach, Florida
Research and Reports	Barbara Gamble, Chairperson, Citizens Concern for Adolescent Pregnancies

INTRODUCTION

The Volusia County Single Parents Program (VCSPP) is the first of a special program to be sponsored by the Volusia County School Board funded through a federal grant.

This program is designed to identify the single parents who are potential dropouts because of the lack of financial support for day care and provide approved day care services for those selected students who otherwise would not continue their secondary educational program.

Strategies that are used to reduce the dropout rate include cooperative effort with school guidance counselors to identify and counsel pregnant and parenting teens who are potential dropouts, with the aim of getting them into the program and facilitating completion of their education.

The program services are provided without bias or stereotyping.

The program is also designed to help single parents focus on vocational training programs that will enable the student to find higher wage employment. The program offers career awareness information and assessment along with financial support for child care.

Also, the program provides the student with instruction in such subjects as Health, Family Living and Parenting, and Child Guidance and Care.

This program is intended to keep teenage parents in school and equip them to become self-sufficient in the work field as well as offer assistance in making decisions regarding educational and personal choices. Referrals to other support services are provided to the teen parents based on individual needs.

At present, 34 teen parents are enrolled in the program with 28 on the waiting list for the 1987 fall term.

PROGRAM CRITERIA/COORDINATOR FUNCTIONS

Eligibility requirements for the Volusia County Single Parents Program include:

- Participate on a voluntary basis
- Express interest in working towards a high school diploma
- Maintain code of school conduct and discipline policies
- Maintain satisfactory school progress
- Participate in a child development program
- Maintain successful participation in a vocational training program
- Adhere to the district absentee policy
- Obtain approval of parents and school administration

Students are identified through school guidance counselors, home economics teachers, or other in-school personnel. Agencies such as United Child Care, Inc., HRS, Volusia County Health Department also make referrals. Program participants also recommend the program to friends who in turn make personal contact.

Participants in the program to date include thirty-four teen parents ranging from fourteen to eighteen years of age.

AGE:

UNDER 16----------04
16-18----------30

ETHNIC GROUP

White----------03
Black----------30

PARTICIPANT/SCHOOL

CAMPBELL CENTER

Lynette Oglesby
Tonya Vance

DELAND JUNIOR

Elona Cockfield
Sheridan Smith
Charletha Ward

DELAND SENIOR

Tina Cockfield
Elona Cockfield
Stephine Burton
Frankie Solomon
Jennifer Boatright
Patronda Austin

MAINLAND SENIOR

Pearl Williams
Melissa Neal
Roberta Harris
Lisa Johns
Maria Harris
Temple Williams
Lisa Johns

ORMOND JUNIOR

Mary Tumer

PIERSON

Letitia Ross

SILVER SANDS

Patricia Williams

SEABREEZE SENIOR

Sophia Sims
Latrina Hughes
Lenore Maddox
Sharon Tolliver
Margot Jones
Ramona Tumer
Patricia Ford

SPRUCE CREEK

Stephine Vreen
Belinda King

Pam E.Smith
Nyoka Wilcox

TAYLOR JR/SR

Desserre Jones

COORDINATOR FUNCTIONS

The identified single parents desirous of participating in the program is contacted by the coordinator and an initial interview is conducted. The student is given detailed information regarding the program and the eligibility requirements.

Evaluation is made by the coordinator for eligibility and referrals are given to the pregnant or teen parent regarding pre and post natal care. Other referrals are given students based on individual need.

A day care center or home care center is located by the coordinator and an on-sight evaluation is made. Arrangements are then made with the single parent to enroll her child in a center nearest her home or school. On occasion, the coordinator accompanies the student to day care to assist in filling out forms and give the teen parent moral support.

The coordinator continues to follow-up on a routine basis with the students, school counselors, and day care providers.

The coordinator networks with other agencies, attends seminars and workshops to gain further knowledge and insight to deal with the problems of teen parents in the areas of health care, self-esteem, birth defects, education, vocational training, counseling, location , and cost of day care.

DAY CARE INFORMATION

Various home care and day care centers are located throughout Volusia County that meet the guidelines of the Single Parents Program (VCSPP). The centers vary in cost from $9.00 to $15.00 per day. These centers are licensed and approved by the State and Health Departments.

United Child Care, Inc., is an agency that provides the Single Parents Program with 15 slots from their sub-contracting resources to assist in day care. United Child Care coordinates with the program with a local money match of 12.5% per infant amounting to $392.00. The remaining balance is paid by United Child Care. The average cost for child care per child is $3,132.00 annually.

The remaining slots for day care are funded from the grant. The alternate day care centers are located by the coordinator and an on-sight evaluation is made to determine approval for the Single Parents Program.

DAY CARE AND HOME CARE CENTERS PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE SINGLE PARENTS PROGRAM ARE:

United Child Care, Inc.
Ormond Beach, Florida

Artentry Barnwell
Family Home Care
Deland, Florida

Lula J. Luther
Family Home Care
Holly Hill, Florida

The Beckman School
Daytona Beach, Florida

Child & Craft Day Care
Deland, Florida

Doris Myers Day Care
Orange City, Florida

Vine Street Day Care
Daytona Beach, Florida

Kids Kampus
Pierson, Florida

Play and Learn Nursery
Daytona Beach, Florida

Patricks Day Care
Daytona Beach, Florida

Port Orange Day Care
Port Orange, Florida

APPLICATION FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE PARENTS PROGRAM

SCHOOL .....COUNSELOR.....

WHERE DID YOU LEARN ABOUT OUR PROGRAM.....

DATE.....INTERVIEW.....BY.....

NAME.....
Last First Middle

ADDRESS.....
City State

PARENTS NAME.....

PHONE.....D.O.B.....AGE.....RACE.....SEX.....

PREGNANT....YES....NO.....DUE DATE.....CHILDREN....AGE.....

ARE YOU EMPLOYED.....YES.....NO

EDUCATION(Circle one) 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

.....LIVE WITH BOTH PARENTS
.....LIVE WITH SINGLE PARENT
.....OTHER

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES DEMAND YOUR TIME AS A SINGLE PARENT?

.....CHILD CARE
.....EDUCATION
.....EMPLOYMENT

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU FEEL HINDER YOUR ATTENDING SCHOOL?

.....CHILD CARE
.....TRANSPORTATION
.....OTHER

DO YOU HAVE A DOCTORS STATEMENT TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

.....YES.....NO

WILL YOU VOLUNTARILY ENROLL IN A CHILD DEVELOPMENT COURSE

.....YES.....NO

WILL YOU VOLUNTARILY ENROLL IN A VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

.....YES.....NO

COMMENTS.....
.....
.....

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE PARENTS PROGRAM

1. VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

2. ENROLL IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

3. ENROLL IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

4. MAINTAIN CODE OF SCHOOL CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICIES

5. MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY SCHOOL PROGRESS

6. MAINTAIN SCHOOL POLICIES OF ABSENTEES

7. GIVE EVIDENCE OF INTEREST IN WORKING TOWARDS A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

CONTINUATION IN THE VOLUSIA COUNTY TEEN PROGRAM IS BASED ON THE ABOVE CRITERIA WHICH I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND.

SIGNED----------DATE----------

VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE PARENTS PROGRAM

DATE----------

THIS IS TO VERIFY CONTINUATION OF MY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE PARENTS PROGRAM. I WILL ENROLL IN SUMMER SCHOOL (6 WEEKS) AT----------

---

BEGINNING----------.

SIGNED:----------

DATE:----------

COUNSELOR:----------

SCHOOL:----------

SCHOOL BOARD OF VOLUSIA COUNTY
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA 32015

Child Agreement/Single Parent Program

PARENT'S NAME----------

STUDENT'S NAME----------

ADDRESS----------

PHONE----------

D.O.B.----------

AGE----------

CHILD'S NAME----------DOB---------

DAY CARE----------

ADDRESS----------

PHONE----------

CERTIFICATE NUMBER----------

DIRECTOR----------

COST/RATE----------DAY----------WEEK----------

VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE PARENTS PROGRAM

DATE

Dear.....,

Thank you for your interest in the Single Parents Program.

Due to the abundance of responses of interested teens, we had to make our selection according to the guidelines and eligibility criteria set forth in the federal grant.

We would like to encourage you to continue your educational program, as we will keep your name on file for future openings as they become available.

Sincerely,

Barbara P. Shields
Teen Parent Coordinator

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

1. Many single parents are leaving school to take care of their children due to the lack of financial support of day care.

2. There is little being done to encourage single parents to return and complete their high school program.

3. Student health records indicate that 90% delayed pre-natal health care.

4. Of the 85 students interviewed, 80% were found to be from single parent homes.

5. Initial contacts were made with school guidance counselors to present the program for teen parents.

6. Identified students were interviewed and selection was made based on the eligibility criteria of the program.

7. Implementation of the program resulted in 85 interviews of pregnant and teen mothers.

8. All pregnant and teen parents were given outside referrals for health and financial aid.

9. The single parents participating in the program received instruction in Health, Family Living and Parenting, and Child Guidance and Care.

10. Eleven day care and home care centers were located and an on-sight evaluation made.

11. Student progress was monitored by the guidance counselors and presented to the coordinator.

12. Periodic follow-up was made to the day care and home care centers.

13. Networking with outside resources, contact with other agencies and concerned citizens, resulted in community awareness of the teen issues and the purpose of the Volusia County Single Parents Program.

VOLUSIA COUNTY LIVE BIRTHS 18 and UNDER

YEAR	NUMBER	% TO LIVE BIRTHS
1980	377	13.09
1981	370	11.99
1982	351	11.16
1983	349	10.38
1984	368	10.52
1985	370	10.51

In 1986 11.43 % of all live births were teens

FINDINGS ON TEEN PREGNANCY AND TEEN PARENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-Some 560,000 teenage girls give birth each year.

-Almost one-sixth of all U.S. births are to teenage women.

-Babies born to young teen mothers have a higher risk of serious health problems.

-The teen mother has special problems, physically and emotionally.

-The death rate from pregnancy complications is much higher among girls who give birth under age 15 than among older mothers.

-The teenage mother is more likely to be undernourished and suffer premature or prolonged labor.

-During the first 3 months of pregnancy, seven out of ten pregnant teenagers do not see a doctor or go to a health clinic.

-Poor eating habits, smoking, alcohol and drugs increase the risk of having a baby with health problems.

-The baby growing inside a mother is in a most dependent, and often risky, place.

-Low birth weight is the most immediate health problem. Babies born to teenagers often are born small, too soon.

-Low birth weight babies may have immature organ systems (brain, lungs, heart).

-Difficulty controlling body temperature and blood sugar levels are found in low weight babies.

-Mental retardation is more apt to result from teen parents.

-A risk of dying in early infancy is higher among infants of teen mothers.

CONSEQUENCES OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY

The future does not often hold great promise for a teenage mother and her child because:

1. Two out of three pregnant teenagers drop out of school.

2. With her education cut short, the teenage mother may lack job skills.

3. The income of teen mothers is half that of those who first gave birth in their twenties.

4. The teenage mother may become financially dependent on her family or on welfare.

5. Teenage marrriages have a much greater chance of ending in divorce.

CONCLUSIONS

As the Volusia County Single Parents Program was implemented, it became obvious that teenage parents are often school dropouts. Without the services provided by the program, many students would leave school to care for their babies.

The following areas of concern were observed:

1. Teen dropouts face difficulties in obtaining the skills needed to compete in society.

2. Teenage parents were unaware of the health risks involved in pregnancy without early pre-natal care

3. Teenage parents need the support of their families, their communities, and their school to help them overcome the obstacles they face.

4. Teenage parents were unaware of community resources available to help them and their children.

The program, funded through a federal vocational grant, has provided the teenage parent with an opportunity to:

-Receive financial support for day care.

-Receive vocational training to equip them in job skills.

-Receive counseling through school and outside resources.

-Continue their educational program and receive a high school diploma.

FLORIDA SCHOOL DISTRICTS OFFERING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE PREGNANT OR ARE PARENTS

1986-87

DISTRICT	EDUCATION	CHILD CARE
Alachua	x	x
Bay	x	x
Brevard	x	x
Broward	x	x
Columbia	x	
Dade	x	x
DeSoto	x	
Duval	x	x
Escambia	x	x
Hernando	x	x
Highlands	x	x
Hillsborough	x	x
Lake	x	
Lee	x	x
Leon	x	x
Manatee	x	
Martin	x	x
Monroe	x	x
Okaloosa	x	x
Orange	x	x
Palm Beach	x	
Pineallas	x	x
Polk	x	x
Sarasota	x	x
Seminole	x	x
Volusia	x	x